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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Patton et al.

Atty Dkt No.: NOVLP016C1/NVLS-000403C1

Application No.: 10/693,223

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

Filed: October 24, 2003

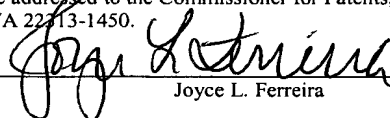
Group: 2812

Title: SEQUENTIAL STATION TOOL FOR
WET PROCESSING OF
SEMICONDUCTOR WAFERS

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail on October 26, 2004 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signed: _____


Joyce L. Ferreira

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

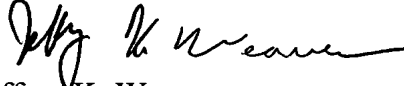
Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 19, 2004, Applicant hereby elects, **with** traverse, group II, claims 10-25 to prosecute in the above-identified patent application.

Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that the process of the Group II claims can be practiced by another different apparatus than recited in the Group I claims, namely that the process can be practiced by manually transferring the semiconductor wafers from one station to another. However, such process would still require use of a plurality of separate stations akin to those identified in Group I claims. And while the manual operation proposed by the Examiner would not necessarily require the mechanism for transporting wafers, as recited in the Group I claims, prior art describing such manual operation would still be expected to be classified with (and generally subject to the same key words for searching) the apparatus recited in the Group I claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that any search for the process claimed in Group II claims would almost completely overlap with a search for the apparatus claimed in the Group I claims, and it would not likely present an undue burden to conduct a concurrent search for both groups of claims.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing this Response to Restriction Requirement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. NOVLP016C1).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey K. Weaver", written over the printed name.

Jeffrey K. Weaver
Registration No. 31,314

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778